

**REMARKS****Allowable Subject Matter**

The Examiner has asserted that claims 2 and 12 contain allowable subject matter that is neither anticipated nor obvious over the art of record. Claim 2 had depended from claim 1.

Presently, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2. Accordingly, claim 1 should now be recognized as allowable by the Examiner. Further, claim 12 has been canceled, as the subject matter of claim 12 is now redundant to the subject matter of claim 10. Thus, the amendment places the application in condition for allowance (only subject matter recognized as allowable is pending), and therefore may be entered. And, applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendments.

Further, claims 8 and 18 have been withdrawn as being directed to an (allegedly) patentably distinct species. Upon allowance of claim 1, the Examiner is requested to consider and allow claims 8 and 18 as provided by 37 CFR § 1.141 and MPEP § 806.04(d).

Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue any presently unclaimed subject matter in a continuing application. Applicants make no admissions regarding the propriety of the asserted rejections and specifically traverse the assertion that Speikermann (WO 02/103863) discloses pumping two gain elements using a single pump source.

**Conclusion**

For at least the reasons stated above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections and objections, and to allow the present application.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this amendment, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: March 17, 2009

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T.D. Boone". The signature is written in a cursive, stylized font.

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